Pakistan's support to Kashmir

†1988. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani President in his message broadcast on 21st January, 2002 has stated that "Kashmir Hamare Khoon main hai, Samarthan jaari Rahaingay;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government have conveyed their protest to the Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Propagandist statements on the part of the Pakistan President cannot alter the fact that the entire State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan.

Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Passport application collection Centres

1989. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started passport application collection centres at every district Headquarters;

(b) whether this practice does not involve any delay in processing and issue of passports; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that passport applicants are not harassed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The Government has decided to decentralise the passport services and to bring these services closer to the people. Under this scheme, the passport applicants can deposit their filled passport application forms

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.